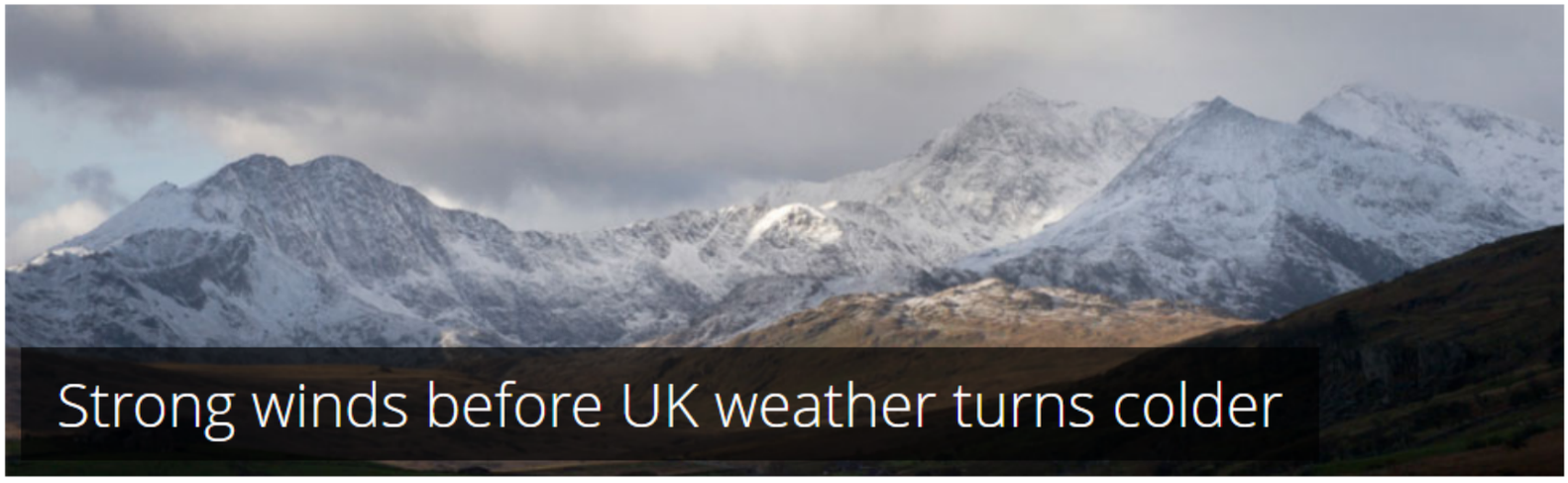

Strong winds before UK weather turns colder

15 January 2015 - Winds will remain strong today before easing with colder weather taking hold across the UK from tomorrow.

The Met Office has issued three separate severe weather warnings for strong winds across different parts of the UK, related to a low pressure system moving to the north of the country through Thursday.

Gusts of 60-70 mph are possible in these areas, with slightly stronger gusts possible on exposed coasts and hills. These winds will ease off for all areas as we head into Friday.

From Friday, the focus turns to colder weather with the potential for widespread overnight frosts, freezing fog patches and some wintry showers in places. While snow is likely to lower levels in Scotland and northern England, further south it will be mainly across high ground at first.

A severe weather warning has been issued for snow and ice in north-western parts of the UK, with accumulations of 2-6 cm possible to lower levels and 10-15 cm over higher ground. Because the snowfall is related to showers, while some places may see snow others may not see any at all - even within the warning area.

Frank Saunders, Chief Meteorologist at the Met Office, said: "After the strong winds today we'll be heading into a north westerly airflow which will bring colder air to the UK. This means we'll see some low overnight temperatures and wintry showers in places, and we expect this to last throughout the weekend and into the start of next week.

"We'd advise people to stay up-to-date with the latest picture of what to expect through our forecasts and warnings as the colder conditions resume."

Mik Barton, winter campaign manager for the Highways Agency, said: "We prepare for all types of severe weather: we issue alerts to warn high-sided and other vulnerable vehicles of strong winds, our snowploughs are constantly at the ready and we will be treating the network with salt to reduce the risk of ice.

"Our advice to road users is to keep a close eye on the forecast and to plan around the weather. Postpone or delay your journey if necessary, adjust your driving to the conditions and always carry a winter kit. If you have to make a long-distance journey remember to check what it's like at your destination, as the weather across the country can be variable, and think about your return journey too."

Check the website for the latest on weather warnings and the weather conditions in your area.

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